



State Senator **NANCY CASSIS**

E-NEWS UPDATE

“Coffee and Conversation” in White Lake Township

I will be hosting coffee and conversation with area residents on Friday, June 9, from 10 a.m. to noon in the White Lake Township Office, 7525 Highland Road in White Lake.

Coffee and Conversation hours are open to residents needing assistance or wishing to express their opinions. This is an opportunity for constituents to relay comments or problems they may be having with state government. No appointment is necessary and everyone is welcome to attend.

(Residents unable to attend can write me at P.O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48909, or via e-mail at senncassis@senate.michigan.gov.)

New license plates unnecessary in a struggling economy

The Michigan Senate approved legislation that will replace the current blue-and-white standard vehicle license plate with a new, one-color, graphic reflective plate. The *intent* of the legislation— to ensure 100-percent compliance with licensing laws and prevent licensing fraud—is good. But such a change would be a monumental undertaking. It would require that \$11 million be taken from the Michigan Transportation Fund to pay for this extensive implementation. In addition, the environmental impact of dumping millions of perfectly good plates into landfills is sure to be high.

I may be in the minority, but I believe taking this money from the Michigan Transportation Fund in very difficult economic times is irresponsible and unnecessary, so I voted against these bills. The Legislature needs to be working to save dollars in the state budget. And just as our constituents have had to tighten their belts—without “shifting funds”—so must their legislators. Michigan drivers, me included, can live with our own blue license plates until the economy and our state revenues turn around.

General Motors’ new facility will help retain Michigan jobs for years to come

General Motors recently held a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the GM Milford Proving Ground for the company’s new High Feature Test Facility, a \$50 million investment that will help retain Michigan jobs for years to come. The technologically advanced, powertrain vehicle-development facility is one of the most sophisticated of its kind in the world.

The facility can simulate any type of road system in the world. High-tech equipment will allow GM to test its cars in every conceivable environmental condition and climate, under one roof, 365 days a year. These innovations will reduce costs, allowing General Motors to keep its test drivers home instead of sending them to the desert or arctic climates or out into the rain or snow. The facility also enables GM to test vehicles’ fuel emissions in one place.

The opening of the High Feature Test Facility is good news for General Motors, the auto industry and Michigan workers. GM is leading the way with an exceptional example of how to combine state-of-the-art technologies with established industries.

Contact Information:

The E-News Update by Senator Nancy Cassis is designed to provide residents and organizations with a periodic update of my activity in Lansing. If you have any questions or do not wish to receive this e-mail, please contact my office.

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